



# TN MEP Newsletter

DECEMBER 2011

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ISR's needed 2

PAC meetings  
planned 2

PASS - we can  
help 3

EXITO Pro-  
gram 3

Contact  
Information 4

Directors  
Message 4

## National Migrant Conference in Nashville

The Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education's, Annual National Migrant Conference was held last month in Nashville. Nearly 500 staff from migrant programs all over the nation came to TN for the conference. We were honored to have been chosen and happy to host the conference. Having the conference in Nashville, allowed more state staff from TN be able to attend, and we did have several staff from districts across the state

that were able to be in attendance. Hosting the conference allowed the TN migrant education program to highlight its programs before a national audience.

We feel certain that all who attended found it to be a wonderful learning experience.

Students from Warren County High School's "California Club" came and performed traditional baile folklorico dances at the closing session. The club has several current or past migrant students. The

students and their school staff put together a great program.

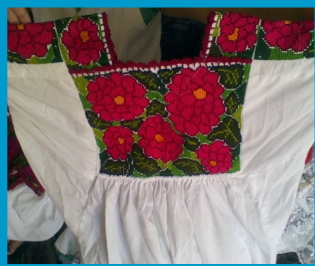
Cristina Chavez, granddaughter of Cesar Chavez, was the keynote for the final session. Students had the chance to meet her and hear more about her and her grandfather's work on behalf of farmworkers.

We want to thank all of you in TN that work to help us identify and serve the students in TN that are eligible for the Migrant Education Program.



**WE HAVE  
MOVED!**

**ISR's need to be  
sent in for all Mi-  
grant Students  
soon after they  
move.**



## Individual Student Records Needed!

We wanted to send out a reminder that as students move out of the state or to other districts, we need to receive their Individual Student Records. These have to be sent in a timely manner after the move. We should be getting a lot of these for students that moved out of the state during October and November.

We are required to enter all of this information into our data system so all the information can be made available

on the national migrant education database called MSIX.

Our tutors keep us abreast of moves of students as they are out and about. Grace Johnson will continue to contact districts to obtain updated addresses for students still residing in the districts and ISR's for those who have moved.

Grace is available at 615-459-3600 ext 202 if you have specific questions about the ISR or how to fill it out.

## PAC Meetings Planned

One of our Migrant Program requirements is to hold parental advisory meetings during the year. We will be holding several family nights during the month of December and will have several more this winter and early spring.

Our first night is December 6th in Hamblen County. Two more will follow on the 8th of December in Loudon and Warren County. An event will be held in Greene County on the 10th and another on the 15th in Robertson County.

During these events we will be working with migrant families to help them know of program requirements and services.



Also, in coordination with a TN Art Commission Grant, we will be doing some traditional arts activities and looking for "arts tradition bearers" that will be highlighted through our grant. The grant is to help identify and

document the work of traditional arts bearers in the migrant community.

The Art grant has allowed us to take the time to get to learn some of the talents of our migrant families that we never noticed. We were able to showcase some of the traditional arts gathered from our families at the National Conference in Nashville.

We hope to share these traditions with students to help generate interest in traditional forms of art and culture.

## PASS— We can help students make up courses!



If you have a migrant student district that is behind in course-work and needs to make up

credits, please consider PASS as an option. The PASS program is used nation wide to help migrant students recover credit(s) they are lacking in order to graduate.

Program materials are free to any past or current migrant student. In areas where a MEP tutor is working, students can receive tutoring for work on

PASS materials.

If your district is looking for an additional way to help this subgroup of students make up needed credits, please consider PASS as a viable option.

According to the National PASS Center, "The Portable Assisted Study Sequence (PASS) Program consists of self-contained, semi-independent study courses which enable students to earn secondary-level academic credits. Participating students generally take these courses in order to make up courses, meet graduation requirements or cope with scheduling difficulties. PASS courses are designed to parallel regular academic courses

offered in most schools. Each PASS course is competency-based and learner-centered, allowing the student to progress at his or her own pace. Because of this structure, students are able to continue course work as they move from district to district or even state to state."

More information about the PASS program and courses offered can be found at [www.migrant.net/pass/](http://www.migrant.net/pass/)



## EXITO Program

One service offered by in-home instructors of the MEP program is the EXITO Program.

This program is specifically designed to help parents of pre-school age students (ages 3-5) know how to work directly with their children to help prepare them for kindergarten. The program focuses on teach-

ing them to play various educational games in the home each day in their native languages.

Instructors help mentor parents on the games and work to show how to incorporate them into everyday activities. The program offers up to 10 home visits of an hour and 15 minutes each.

We cover the subjects of numbers, colors, shapes, body parts and the alphabet. We also work to help provide books for parents to read to their children.

The program has seen an increase in the number of parents who are more aware of things they can do in the home to help prepare their children for school.

We are working to provide the EXITO program to all 3-5 year olds.



# Director's Message: .



A great big “**thank-you**” to all of you who helped make the National Migrant Conference such a success. Special thanks to Jan Lanier, TN Department of Education, Director of ESL, for her support and to all those at TOPS who worked so hard to help TN put its best foot forward as we hosted the nation. It was wonderful to see LEA migrant contacts from across the state take advantage of this learning opportunity.

The Migrant Education Program (MEP) in TN has gone through a number of changes in the last couple of years, but we are

proud of the fact that each and every change that has been made as been made with the goal of providing the best services possible with the resources we have available to the migrant students who come through TN . Our numbers are down by about 300 this year due to a variety of factors including extremes in weather that affect our crops. But as the calendar year winds down, we are pleased to note we have been able to meet our goal of providing quality services to many of our migrant students and their families. We are always looking for more ways to reach our stu-

dents. Please do not hesitate to share with me your thoughts about potential modifications to the program or additional ways we can reach and serve our students.

Our in-home instruction program is currently serving students across the state. We do have openings in many areas for bilingual instructors. If you know of anyone who is looking for extra work on nights or weekends that is bilingual in Spanish, please invite them to send us a resume at [migrated@blomand.net](mailto:migrated@blomand.net)



## CONTACTS



**Paula Gaddis**  
**Migrant Education Consultant/**  
**Title VI/Private Schools**  
**TN Department of Education**  
**Andrew Johnson Tower 5th Floor**  
**710 James Robertson Parkway**  
**Nashville, TN 37243-0375**  
**615-741-3262**  
**[paula.gaddis@tn.gov](mailto:paula.gaddis@tn.gov)**

**Jessica Castaneda**  
**Tennessee MEP**  
**State Coordinator/Recruiter**  
**4660 Hills Creek Road**  
**McMinnville, TN 37110**  
**931-668-4139**  
**[migrated@blomand.net](mailto:migrated@blomand.net)**